



WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

BLM GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE

Wilderness Quick Facts

With the passage of FLPMA in 1976, Congress directed the BLM to inventory, study, and recommend which public lands under its administration should be designated wilderness.

The **Wilderness Act of 1964**

established the National Wilderness Preservation System, the system of all America's wilderness areas, to "*secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.*"

In 1987, Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) prepared a wilderness study report through the Resource Management Plan planning effort, which identified five areas (Dominguez Canyon, Sewemup Mesa, Palisade, Demeree and Little Wild Horse) that met the definition of having wilderness character. In this interim period, these areas are called Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs).

A WSA is an area that contains wilderness characteristics and is managed to preserve those values until Congress either designates them as wilderness or releases them for other uses.

In 1991, the BLM issued a Record of Decision that included wilderness recommendations for WSAs throughout Colorado. Through this process, the Dominguez and Sewemup WSAs were recommended as suitable and the Demaree, Little Book

Cliffs, and Palisade WSAs as non-suitable. Congress has yet to act on that recommendation.

Through the current planning effort, inventory of lands with wilderness characteristics and subsequent data will assist land managers in designing setting prescription alternatives. Current WSA recommendations to Congress cannot be altered.

Submit information and comments by January 9, 2009

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